

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2166

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USUN NEW YORK 178

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 2998

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA SOFT PEDALS DIFFERENCE IN U.S.

REF: A) USUN 3846; B) BUDAPEST 1364

1. TEXT OF FONMIN PUJA'S OCT 8 SPEECH BEFORE UNGA, WHICH WE HAVE RECENTLY NOW RECEIVED IN FULL, APPEARS TO REPRESENT DE-EMPHASIS OF FREQUENT ANTI-U.S. RHETORIC OF PAST ADDRESSES. PUJA STRESSED POSITIVE FACTORS OF DETENTE POLICY BETWEEN USSR AND U.S. AND INCLUDED FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT FORD. ALMOST AS SIGNIFICANT WAS FACT HE AVOIDED MENTIONING U.S. BY NAME WHEN DISCUSSING PROBLEMS OF CYPRUS, VIETNAM AND CHILE. (HE HAD BEEN EXPLICIT AND FAIRLY STRONG IN HIS COMMENTS ABOUT U.S. AND VIETNAM IN HIS MAIDEN SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT LAST SPRING.)

2. WHEN REFERRING TO MFN, PUJA CALLED ONLY FOR REMOVAL OF "DISCRIMINATION" IN TRADE "BETWEEN COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS" (NOT MENTIONING U.S. SPECIFICALLY). IN TOUCHING ON ME PEACE EFFORTS, PUJA SAID GOH APPROVED OF POSITIVE STEPS TO PROMOTE PEACE IN MIDEAST, "NO MATTER WHICH COUNTRY MAY INITIATE THEM."

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3. ON ARRIVAL BACK FROM NEW YORK, PUJA STRESSED THAT ALMOST EVERY COUNTRY "WITH EXCEPTION OF CHINA AND ALBANIA" PLEASED WITH CONTINUED U.S.-SOVIET COOPERATION. REST OF REMARKS WERE QUITE CONCILIATORY.

4. PUJA HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED ONE OF MOST DOGMATIC HARDLINERS IN GOH AND HIS PRIOR REMARKS (SEE REF B) HAVE USUALLY CONTAINED DIRECT AND HIGHLY NEGATIVE REFERENCES TO U.S. LACK OF DIRECT REFERENCE TO U.S. IN UN SPEECH AND OTHER RECENT REMARKS SUGGEST THAT HE MAY BE BRINGING HIS PUBLIC STANCE MORE INTO LINE WITH "DETENTE ATMOSPHERE." EMB EFFORTS TO CONVINCE GOH THAT U.S. SENSITIVITIES MUST BE GIVEN GREATER ATTENTION MAY HAVE HELPED.
PEDERSEN

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